

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

TWO NOVELS.
VESTIGIA, BY GEORGE FLEMING. 16mo. pp. 288.
Roberts Brothers.

CALLED BACK, BY HUGH CONWAY. 16mo. pp. 254.
Henry Holt & Co.

Miss Fletcher has produced in "Vestigia" a novel in which the characters are better than the plot, and the sentence is better than the paragraph. There is hardly enough vigor in the outlines of her characters, but she has colored this and that trait with a strong and adroit hand. The peevish mother of the hero, the shrewd and tender-hearted father of the heroine, are admirable in many ways. The hero and the heroine themselves are less successful. Italia is one of those flower-like, sensitive people, in writing about whom sentiment is apt to fall into sentimentality; and the author has not quite succeeded in keeping her upon the more artless side of the verse. Like "Called Back," Miss Fletcher's story deals with members of a secret society and turns upon an episode of murder. It reveals a tendency which promises to grow upon the modern non-analytic novelist. Nihilism is practically the only attainable substitute for the romance-phases of medieval days, and he who would introduce in his novel the mysterious and the dramatic naturally turns to the records of socialistic organization, crimes and punishment.

Miss Fletcher has brightened her book by many neat and incisive little aphorisms characteristic of a feminine brain, and worthy to be remembered.

It is said that when Mr. Conway's story of "Called Back" was published in England a few months ago, there was at first no demand whatever for the volume. But an editor of one of the "society weeklies" happened to read it through and wrote a paragraph about it which appeared in his column of gossip. Thereupon arose a great excitement and urgent inquiries for the work. The consequence has been an enormous sale of the book, for which it is rumored that Mr. Conway—otherwise Mr. Frederick Fergus of Bristol—received only the modest sum of eighty pounds. The reader of the American reprint will be disposed to wonder at this sudden popularity. The story is written in reasonably good English; the plot is ingenious and well developed; and there are some rather striking chapters concerning a Siberian journey and its results. Aside from this there is nothing which justifies much commendation.

The hero is a young Englishman who becomes blind and in an agony of impatience under this affliction rushes out into the street one night to wander up and down alone. He gropes his way back to what he supposes is his own home, his latch key fitting the keyhole; but it is a strange house and he ascends the stairway only to hear a woman's shriek of horror and other sounds that indicate the commission of a murder. The murderers, seeing him enter, are about to take his life lest he should betray them; but he cries out that he is blind, and a medical man who is present confirms his statement. His life is spared, and he is led away into the streets of London in a roundabout fashion. How he afterwards comes in contact with these murderers, who are all members of a nihilist society; how he recovers his sight and falls in love unwittingly with the woman who shrieked; how he finds out after marriage that she has lost her mind; how he finds it for her under startling conditions and sees the punishment of the murderer—all these things are related with some cleverness and without too much of the detail which spoils romance. The narrative of the hero's journey in Siberia and the description of murder, when for a few moments his life hangs in the balance, show some dramatic power.

A scandalous literary imposition has just been put upon the New-York market in the shape of a paper-covered volume bearing this title: "The White Elephant." A story by Charles Read. The title, together with the figure of an elephant, is printed in white on the black cover—"the same" as Truthful James would say, "with intent to deceive."

Charles Read never wrote a story called "The White Elephant." In 1856 he published a story called "Jack of All Trades," in which are recounted the tricks and tempests of a performing elephant named "Djek." The author of this latest attempt upon the credulity of the public has simply adapted this old story by changing the title, omitting the opening chapters, and interpolating the word "white" into the text wherever "Djek" is mentioned. We cannot recall a more impudent piece of literary dishonesty than this attempt to palm off this clumsy adaptation as a new story by Charles Read.

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B. P. Coal.	10	Oatmeal, bush.	80	Uncomest., pks.	2,057
Beans, bush.	218	Grass, seed.	1	Lard, ices.	1,026
Cotton, bales.	5,000	Goats.	745	Pork, pigs.	3,910
Cotton, bales.	1,000	Hides, No. 1.	137	Chesse, pcks.	1,454
Cotton, bales.	1,000	Hides, No. 2.	13	Cheese, pks.	41
Cotton, bales.	6,318	Hides, No. 3.	14	Pork, pks.	383
Cotton, bales.	14	Leather, pks.	1,678	Pork, pks.	1
Cotton, bales.	2,048	Leather, 12m.	1,678	Rye, pks.	1
Cotton, bales.	1,000	Linen, 12m.	27	Rye, bush.	1
Cotton, bales.	261	Steerine, pks.	27	Rye, bush.	1
Cotton, bales.	505	Turnip, raw.	1,000	Tobacco, pks.	379
Cotton, bales.	127,226	Tar, b'ys.	124	Whisky, pks.	1
Cotton, bales.	27,550	Oil, bush.	7,000	Wool, bales.	1,9
Cotton, bales.	8,800	Oilcake, pks.	800	Wool, bush.	1

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